

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge
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<http://www.fws.gov/okefenokee>

News Release



For Immediate Release

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Supervisory Refuge Ranger

Annual Guide Now Being Accepted at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is opening the application process for 2014-2015 Day-Use and Overnight Guide Permits. If your organization charges a fee to participants to visit Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, whether you are for profit or nonprofit, you are required to have a Commercial Visitor Services permit. This includes educational organizations, nonprofit organizations, tour companies, and outfitters.

All permit applicants must have adequate insurance, first aid training, and attend a refuge specific training, as outlined in the guiding policies. If your organization does not guide, but you hire others to lead trips, you must choose from guides already permitted on the refuge. For complete policy guidelines, visit the refuge website at: <http://www.fws.gov/okefenokee/guiding>.

Commercial Visitor Service applications are only accepted once a year and are due to the refuge by August 1, 2014. Permits will be awarded during September and will authorize the specific commercial services requested and approved by the Refuge Manager. The permit will allow the vendor to provide their authorized service to the public starting October 1, 2014 and until September 30, 2015. Permits are renewable annually provided the permittee adequately provides quality services to the public and closely follows the terms of their permit.

Application procedures may be accessed on the refuge website at: www.fws.gov/okefenokee/Guiding.html or for more information contact Gracie Gooch at gracie_gooch@fws.gov or call the refuge at (912) 496-3200. Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is located approximately 11 miles southwest of Folkston, Georgia, off Hwy. 121/23.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook pages at www.facebook.com/okefenokeewildliferefuge or www.facebook.com/usfwssoutheast, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwssoutheast, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwssoutheast>.